(b) The Government has constituted an Inter Ministerial Committee (IMC) to look into the specific violation of the Programme and Advertising Codes prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act 1995 and rules framed thereunder. The IMC either *suo motu* or on receipt of complaints looks into the violations and thereafter gives its recommendations to the Government, based on which action is taken as per rules.

Foreign media agencies

†923.SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the major media agencies are receiving foreign assistance, are owned controlled and operated from abroad with their head quarters being located abroad; and

(b) the details of the print and the electronic media in the above said categories?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI CHOUDHURY MOHAN JATUA): (a) and (b) In the print media sector, the operation of foreign news agencies in India is governed by the Cabinet Decision of 1956, according to which communication facilities can be granted only where the distribution of news within the country is to be effected through an Indian news agency, owned and managed by Indians, which would have full and final authority in the selection of foreign news for distribution and which would also be in a position to supply Indian news, in reasonable volume, to the foreign news agencies with whom they have a working arrangement. The Government have no control in managing day-to-day affairs of news agencies, as these are companies registered under the Companies Act. 1956 and operate in the private sector.

As regards Broadcasting Sector, no media agency with foreign assistance is registered. As per the down-linking guidelines only those TV channels can be carried in the cable service, which are registered with the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting. However, they are not Media Agencies.

Legislation for visual media

924. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to enact a legislation for monitoring of the visual media;

(b) whether there is also any proposal to establish independent regulatory mechanism for monitoring of the visual media; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI CHOUDHURY MOHAN JATUA): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi